



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/921,612	08/03/2001	Harjinder Dulai	00100.01.0051	7518

23418 7590 05/21/2003

VEDDER PRICE KAUFMAN & KAMMHOLZ
222 N. LASALLE STREET
CHICAGO, IL 60601

EXAMINER

DUVERNE, JEAN F

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2839

DATE MAILED: 05/21/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/921,612

Applicant(s)
Dulai et al

Examiner
Jean Duverne

Art Unit
2839



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Feb 25, 2003

2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.

3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) ☒ Claim(s) 26-28 is/are allowed.

6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5, 7-14, 16-25, and 29-33 is/are rejected.

7) ☒ Claim(s) 6, 15, and 34 is/are objected to.

8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.

12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:

1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____

3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

15) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

18) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____

16) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

19) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

17) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____

20) ☐ Other:

Art Unit: 2839

DETAILED ACTION

1. In view of applicant's argument, the examiner has decided to issue another non-final office action to reiterate clearly the interconnection with a high density connector and other claims limitations.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-5, 7-14, 16-25, 29-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Greenberg et al (US patent 5,793,352) in view of Perlman (US patent 6,169,879).

In regard to claims 1-3, 7-9, 29-30, Greenberg's device discloses a block or housing having a longitudinal axis and including a top surface, a bottom surface, a front surface, a back surface, and side surfaces such that the first and second side surfaces are oppositely disposed (see figs. 1-4); a plurality of jacks (40, 40', 42, 44, 53, 53' 42) for connection with peripheral devices disposed on the first and second side surfaces; a recessed portion formed on the first side surface having at least one of the plurality jacks (53) disposed therein; a projecting portion formed on the second side surface having at least one of the plurality of jacks (44') disposed therein; an cable

Art Unit: 2839

(54) associate with the back surface and high density conductor connection at 56, 58 (see fig. 1 col. 3, lines 54-59) with the jacks, the jacks with audio, video, stereo-audio inputs and outputs (see figs. 1-2, 4) with the diagram showing the stereo audio input and output (42, 84, 84'), the video input by using the mouse at 44, 44' to select the input and output at 45, 40, 53, 55) or see col. 1, line 36-56, cols 3-4, lines 21-60). However, Greenberg's device fails to explicitly disclose different surface shape in recess or the side surface as being opposed to each other because the connecting device has a circular shape and a high density connection plug on the interconnection block for computer components. However, Greenberg's device fails to explicitly disclose the use of the S-video. Perlman's device discloses an audio and video interconnection system with the use of the use of the S-video.

In regard to claims 4, 12-14, 16-18, 19-23, 32, Greenberg's and Perlman devices disclose the aforementioned limitations, but fail to explicitly disclose different arrangement features for the jacks connectors. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to place a rib on the top surface and the cable disposed at an offset from the longitudinal axis, first side surface being parallel to the second side surface or angular arrangement of elements, since it has been held that rearranging parts of an invention involves only routine skill in the art. In *Japike*, 86 USPQ 70.

For claims 5, 10-11, and 24-25, 31, 33, Greenberg's and Perlman devices disclose the aforementioned limitations including a transmitter, and the use of the infrared transceiver.

Art Unit: 2839

Perlman's device discloses the use of the infrared transceiver (see col. 3, lines 60-63). It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to use the transmitter device such as the one used in Perlman's device for relaying remote control signal in Greenberg's device.

Conclusion

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 6, 15, and 34 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Prior art fails to disclose the first side with multi-facets recessed portion, second sides with multi-faceted projecting portions combined to form the plurality of surfaces elements, the second side surface disposed at a fourth of the longitudinal axis which is less than the fifth distance associated with the offset second side surface element with the rest of the claims limitations.
4. Claims 26-28 are allowed. Prior art fails to explicitly the combination features a connector block with multiple input and outputs jacks arrangement wherein the input combination of jacks are located on the first surface and the output combination of jacks located on the second surface with the rest of the claim limitations.

Art Unit: 2839

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jean Duverne whose telephone number is (703) 305 - 0297 . The examiner can normally be reached from 8:30 to 4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynn Feild, can be reached on (703)308-2710. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 308 - 7722.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

JFD

May 19, 2003

Jean F. Duverne

Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2839